

Message Text

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41

ACTION SCCT-01

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 EA-06 NEA-06 ISO-00 OC-01 CCO-00

CIAE-00 DODE-00 DOTE-00 EB-07 H-01 INR-05 IO-10 L-02

NSAE-00 NSC-05 NSCE-00 SP-02 PRS-01 RSC-01 SS-15

USIE-00 USSS-00 SY-04 FAA-00 WRD-01 SSO-00 INRE-00

/081 W

----- 089184

O 231235Z NOV 74 ZFF-6

FM AMEMBASSY TUNIS

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 7503

AMEMBASSY TOKYO IMMEDIATE

USDEL VLADIVOSTOK IMMEDIATE

INFO AMEMBASSY CAIRO IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY LONDON IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY ABU DHABI IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY ALGIERS IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY BEIRUT IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY TRIPOLI IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY RABAT IMMEDIATE

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TOKYO AND VLADIVOSTOK FOR SECRETARY

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, PINS, EG, SF, OGEN

SUBJ: HIJACKED VC-10

REF: TUNIS 7220

1. AT 1137 HOURS PALESTINIAN FROM KHARTOUM GROUP MADE
LONG IMPASSIONED PLEA TO HIJACKERS ON AIRCRAFT VIA TOWER
RADIO IN WHICH HE TOLD THEM THAT THEIR ACTION WAS AGAINST
HUMANITY AND HURTING PALESTINIAN CAUSE. "SEARCH YOUR
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CONSCIENCES," HE TOLD THEM, "AND TAKE MY WORD THAT THE

THIRTEEN MEMBERS OF KHARTOUM GROUP HAVE BEEN RELEASED IN CAIRO." COMMANDOES, WHO SOUNDED DISTRAUGHT, REPLIED THAT IF THIS WAS TRUE, PLANE, HOSTAGES, COMMANDOES AND MEMBERS OF KHARTOUM GROUP SHOULD FLY TO CAIRO. KHARTOUM GROUP MEMBER REPLIED THAT HE COULD NOT MAKE DECISION ON THIS, AND WOULD CHECK. LATER, COMMANDOES ASKED FOR TIME LIMIT, BUT NONE SET AS YET.

2. IN FURTHER RADIO CONVERSATION BETWEEN CRAIG AND PILOT, PILOT URGED THAT BRITISH GOVERNMENT MAKE EVERY EFFORT TO BRING KHARTOUM GROUP TO TUNIS AND THAT CRAIG URGE GOT TO KEEP TROOPS AWAY FROM AIRCRAFT. PILOT ADDED THAT IF ACTION NOT TAKEN WITHIN SHORT TIME THERE WOULD BE DIRE CONSEQUENCES ON BOARD AIRCRAFT.

3. EXCHANGE BETWEEN COMMANDO AND KHARTOUM GROUP MEMBER APPEARS TO HAVE ELIMINATED 1200 DEADLINE THREAT REPORTED TUNIS 7221.

4. PRESIDENT BOURGUIBA CALLED ME BEFORE NOON TO CONVEY HIS DEEP CONCERN AT WAY SITUATION HAS EVOLVED. HE SAID HE HAD TALKED TO PRESIDENT SADAT ON TELEPHONE. LATTER HAD CHARACTERIZED HIJACKERS AS MAD AND IRRESPONSIBLE, AND INDICATED EGYPT WOULD NOT RELEASE FEDAYEEN IN EGYPTIAN CUSTODY. PRESIDENT BOURGUIBA NOTED THAT GERMAN AND DUTCH GOVERNMENTS HAD RELEASED FEDAYEEN IN ORDER TO SAVE PASSENGERS' LIVES. HUMANITARIAN CONSIDERATIONS AT THIS POINT WERE ACUTE. I TOLD PRESIDENT THAT FOREIGN MINISTER HAD REQUESTED USG EFFORT WITH EGYPT TO SECURE RELEASE OF FEDAYEEN IN EGYPTIAN CUSTODY AND THAT I HAD PASSED THIS REQUEST ALONG TO WASHINGTON. AT SAME TIME, I OBSERVED THAT USG POLICY IS NOT RPT NOT TO GIVE IN TO BLACKMAIL.

5. WE HAVE NOW BEEN INFORMED THAT THERE ARE FOUR OR FIVE HIJACKERS ON THE AIRCRAFT.

6. STATE 259236 JUST RECEIVED. DO NOT RPT NOT BELIEVE HMG PROPOSAL TO MOVE IMPRISONED TERRORISTS TO TUNIS IS EITHER DESIRABLE OR FEASIBLE. HAVE BEEN FOLLOWING LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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CLOSELY OVER RADIO NEGOTIATING EFFORT AND AM IMPRESSED WITH WAY MINISTER OF INTERIOR HAS BEEN HANDLING HIJACKERS. EVIDENTLY THEY HAVE ALREADY BACKED OFF FROM THEIR EARLIER THREAT TO KILL IMMINENTLY MORE PASSENGERS AND COMPROMISE PROPOSAL RE WHO TAKES OVER CUSTODY OF FEDAYEEN IN CAIRO IS BEING DISCUSSED. OFFER OF FREEDOM FOR THE FOUR OR FIVE TERRORISTS IN EXCHANGE FOR FREEDOM OF HOSTAGES HAS BEEN MADE EXPLICIT THROUGHOUT

NEGOTIATIONS.
SEELYE

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Message Attributes

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Draft Date: 23 NOV 1974
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
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Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: KelleyW0
Disposition Case Number: n/a
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Disposition Remarks:
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30 JUN 2005

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